

From: Bill Richart
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 9:31pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement Case

January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case has taken too long to occur. Litigation should have never taken place from the start and the nine states that have continued lawsuits need to be suppressed.

Microsoft is an extremely important asset to the tech sector in our economy. Our government should be praising the company for all it has done instead of criticizing it. As a firm believer in free enterprise, I think it is ridiculous that Microsoft must disclose its technological secrets. Have we no more respect for intellectual property? Now Microsoft must work with a handicap like no other in the history of the IT sector.

This nation needs to get past this legal mess. The settlement presents a viable solution, so I support it. It is time to get back to the business of innovation, and leave litigation behind.

Sincerely,

William Richart
2445 Sheridan Street
Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701

cc: Senator Rick Santorum